His Excellency Ing. Ernesto Leal Sanchez, Foreign Minister of Nicaraguo paid an official visit to India from April 18—22, 1995. During the visit, Nicaragua was offered a "technical assistance/ training of experts" under the ITEC Programme avid a pilot project under the ITEC terms.

His Excellency Dr. Rodrigo Pardo Garcia-Pena vi'sited India from April 20—23, 1995. Columbia was offered "technical assistance/training of experts" under the ITEC Programme.

Agriculture Minister of Jordan pa'd a visit to lndia from March 7—16. 1995. The Minister showed interest in the exchange of informtaion regarding seeds development and Indian agricultural equipments. No agreement on joint venture was signed during the visit.

His Excallency Dr. Ali Akbar Vilay-a'ti, Foreign Minister of Iran visited India from January 2—4, 1995 for the 8th Sesion of the India-Iran Joint Commission. Among the other issu S of bilateral interest, the meeting also discussed identifying technical cooperation programmes between the two countries in different fields.

His Excellency Mr. Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, President of Iran visited India from April 17—19, 1995. During the' visit, Memorandum of Understandings were signed on the" following:

(i) Cooperation on Tourism

(ii) Cooperation in the Telecomm-unications and postal service.

(iii) Cooperation on Environment.

(iv) Cooperation on prevention or drug trafficking.

Mr. Federico E. Mayor, Director General of UNESCO visited India trom April 30 to May 3, 1995 in connection with the Regioal Meeting on Tolerance for Asia and pacific organised by Government of India.

Mr. Ayala Larsso, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights visited India from April 30 to May 6, 1995 at the invitation of Government of lndia.

Us Deience Secretaiy, , Comm rce Secretary and Treasury Secretary have visited india since January, 1995.

Talks held during' thess visits were aimed at the overall strengthening and diversification of bilateral relation's. They inciuded talks on Indo-US thfeace cooperation, the strengthening of trade, commercial and economic relations as well as exultations on international and regional issues of mutual interest.

An Agreed Minute on Defence Relation was signed on January 12, 1995 during the visit of the US Defence Secretary. A Memorandum of Understanding for the formation of an Indo-US Com-m rcial Alliance was signed on January 16, 1995 during the visit of US Commerce Secretary.

The Agreed Minute on Defence Relations provides a framework for Indo-US defence coop ration envisaging concurrent progress in the three areas of civilian to civilian cooperation, service to set ice cooperation and cooperation in defence research and production. The Commercial Alliance provides an institutionalised mechanism for private industry in the USA to work with their Indian counterparts to increase trade and investment betwe?n the two countries.

The President of Sri Lanka Mrs. Chandrika Bandarrmaike Kumaratunga visited India from March 25—28, 1995. India offered assistance to Sri Lanka in infrastructure and transportation sectors,,, as also the dairy sector end in the seating up of a Small Seale Industries Ceo tre in Sri Lanka.

Grants in Aid to ICWA

5454. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned|propose to sanction any grants-is

aid on recurring basis cr ad-hoc basis to Indian Council of World Affairs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Government funding to the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) was discontinued in 1985. In pursuance of the recommendations of the Standing Committee of Parliament, the Govemment has decided that a high-powered committee should be constituted to look into the problems being fa;ed by ICWA and suggest solutions. Any isupervisory/advii-sory committee can only be constituted in pursuance of a request made by this organisation. The governing body of the Council |s presently being persuaded to pass a resolution requesting the Government to 'set up such a high-powered committee. If and when this committee is established, the Governmsnt may provide funding on ad hoc/recurring basis. The quantum of such funding will have! to be decided only at that time.

Violation of Human Rights in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir

5455. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAM-
BHAIIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any account of the reported uprising of the people and violation of their human rights in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, during the three years; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to inform the international community about the atrocities and violation of human rights perpetuatsd on the people of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Government are aware that people liv ing in areas of Jammu & Kashmir, ille gally occupied by Pakistan through agg ression are denied their democrat!? rigfcti. *According to* avaiable *informa*-tion, it curring violence, sectarian strife and economic deprivation and backwan' - nass seriously affect the rights aad privileges of the people of these areas.

Government have and will contiue to apprise the international community of the true facts of the deplorable conditions prevailing in the Pakistan - Occupied Kashmir and the so-called 'Northern Areas'.

Pakistan's Declartajon about its Nuclear Programme

5456. SHRI V. NARAYANASWAMY:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAM-
BHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

fa)i whether Government .are aware that Pakistan had declared that it was neither fair nor feasible for Islamabad to accept obligations and restraints regarding its nuclear programme;

(b) whether it is a fact that Pakistan! was not being asked to sign the Nuclear Non-proliferatio Treaty (NPT) unilaterally and was also not being pressed to roll back its nuclear programmes; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government and steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE TN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has seen media reports quoting Pakistani leaders that Pakistan will not accept any unilateral restraints on its nuclear programme.